

Testimony of three Pacifists on trial at Cirencester Magistrates Court.

We cut our way into the USAF Military Base at 4.30am 12.3.92 Using Bolt-Cutters. Pitch-Dark we walked over the Air Field avoiding security patrols. We then cut our way into RED ALERT area where B-52s' loaded with Cluster-Bombs & Napalm-Bombs & H.E. Bombs. We painted 'Child-Killers' on the bomb-bay doors. We spray-painted N.D. symbols on the buildings. We got a trolley and were about to climb into the cockpit when some American guards jumped off a truck and surrounded us. We lay down - nonviolent war resisters. We were arrested by the M.O.D. police and charged with 'Criminal Damage' to property. We had the duty to commit such acts to prevent crimes against Humanity! Each one of us has a duty to our Conscience - above any duty to The State or Nation. Each one of us must act to disarm the War Machine. Each one of us must Disobey unjust Laws & Commands.

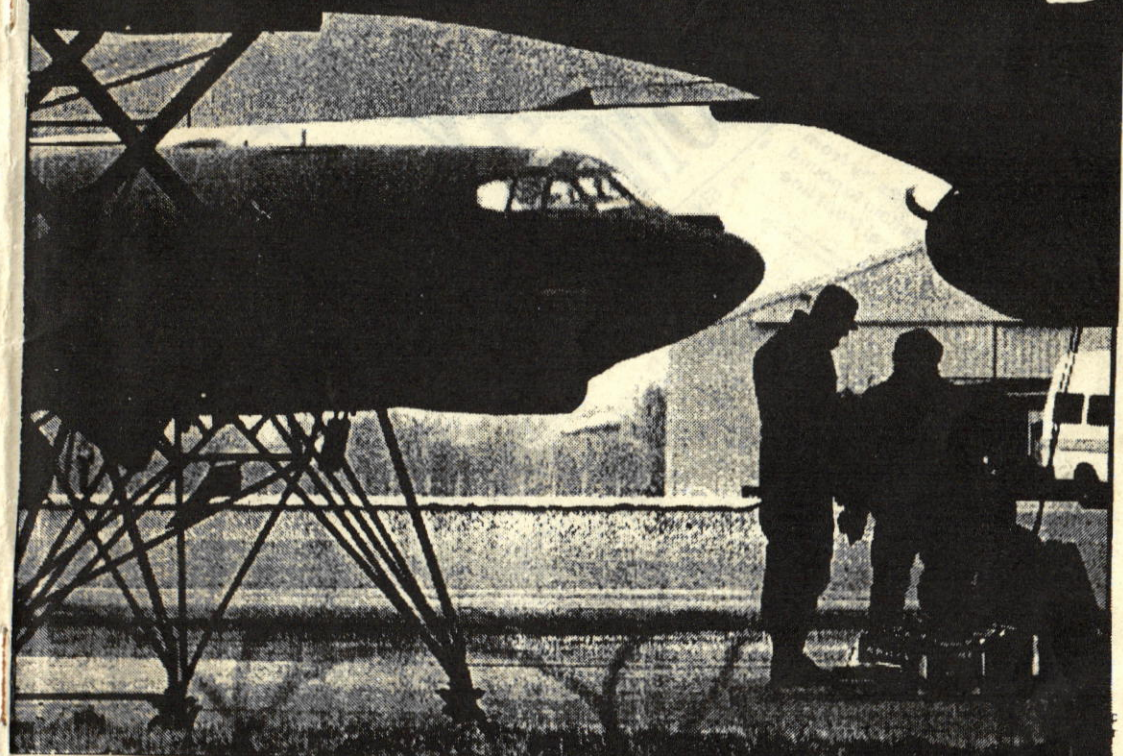
Chris Cole. Stephen Hancock. Emma Westwood.
conTact: 24, ST. Michael's Avenue, NorThampTon.

Set in 18pt. Caslon I Talic. Printed by Dennis Gould
In Solidarity with nonviolent resistance to war.



WAR CRIMES

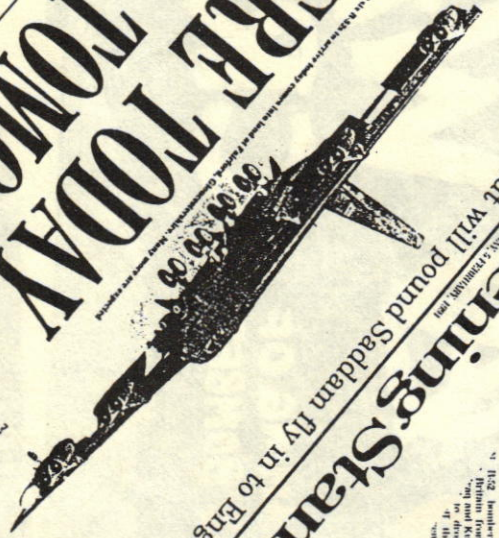
THE NAMING OF A B-52 BOMBER



Protesters, including Gloucester, in March this year. Seasoned peace activists Christopher Cole, aged 28, and Stephen Hancock, aged 30, together with Emma Westwood, aged 37, of St Michael's Avenue, Northampton, cut holes in perimeter fencing, to penetrate a high security area where five B52s were parked. Cole and Hancock both gave their addresses as Hornsea Park Road, Wood Green, London. In earlier appearances before the court Hancock had given a Northampton address.

Peace trio plan dem 20 The Guardian
Protesters daubed slogans on US bomber
Iraq warned of possible armed strike
WEATHER WATCH
FORECAST
EAST 11/12
C+E
15/7/92

UK to be for B-52



Evening Standard
that will pound Saddam fly in to English base

B-52s fly from Britain to pound Iraqi front line

First B-52 bombers fly in

American bomber pilots jostle for their turn over kill zones

The one-sided air war in the Gulf is beginning to resemble shooting in a barrel. David Sharrock hears from airmen frustrated at not getting a proper crack at the target-rich environment

FROM the relatively secure rear areas of the Gulf, the American bomber pilots are beginning to feel the frustration of not getting a proper crack at the target-rich environment. The one-sided air war in the Gulf is beginning to resemble shooting in a barrel. David Sharrock hears from airmen frustrated at not getting a proper crack at the target-rich environment.

B-52s to fly from Britain

Major describes denial of Red Cross access to POWs as unforgivable

war bill hits £1.45bn

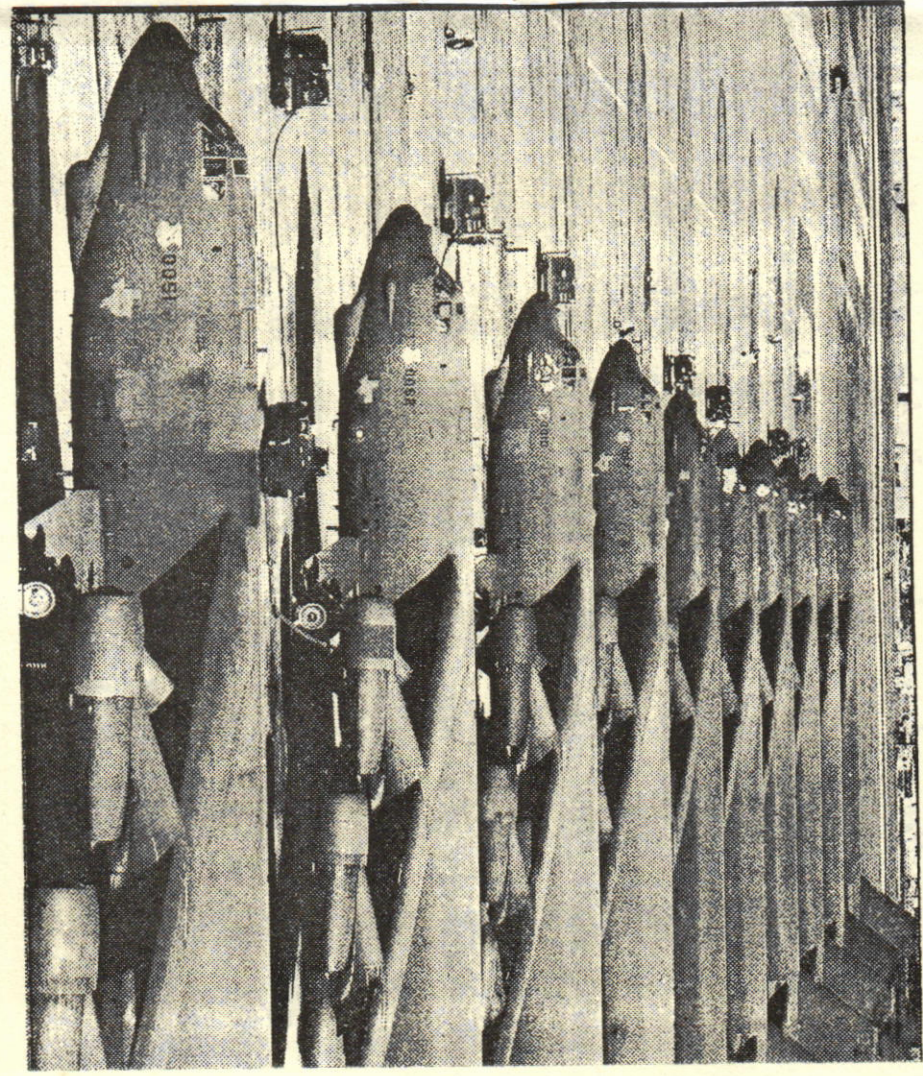


as 'a place where people, however different their ideas, can come together.' What a pale, rotarian, leveling view of the church of Christ! Do Christians differ only as to 'ideas', from the infamous trio; or has the Great Command been so violated by these eminences, that the very cathedral stones must cry murder?

Ignoring the criminal estate of the three as you did, allowing them access to pulpit and sanctuary as you did, you and the cathedral in fact ministered neither to them, nor to your congregants, nor to the public at large.

In fact, as many of your priests and members understood, the cathedral became in the confusion and incoherence of the service, complicit in the crimes-without-consequence of a lawless people.

David Banfan, SJ.



The above concluded, the portal of the church would be closed, the trio remaining symbolically and in fact outside. And the priests and people would proceed to the ceremony of mourning within.

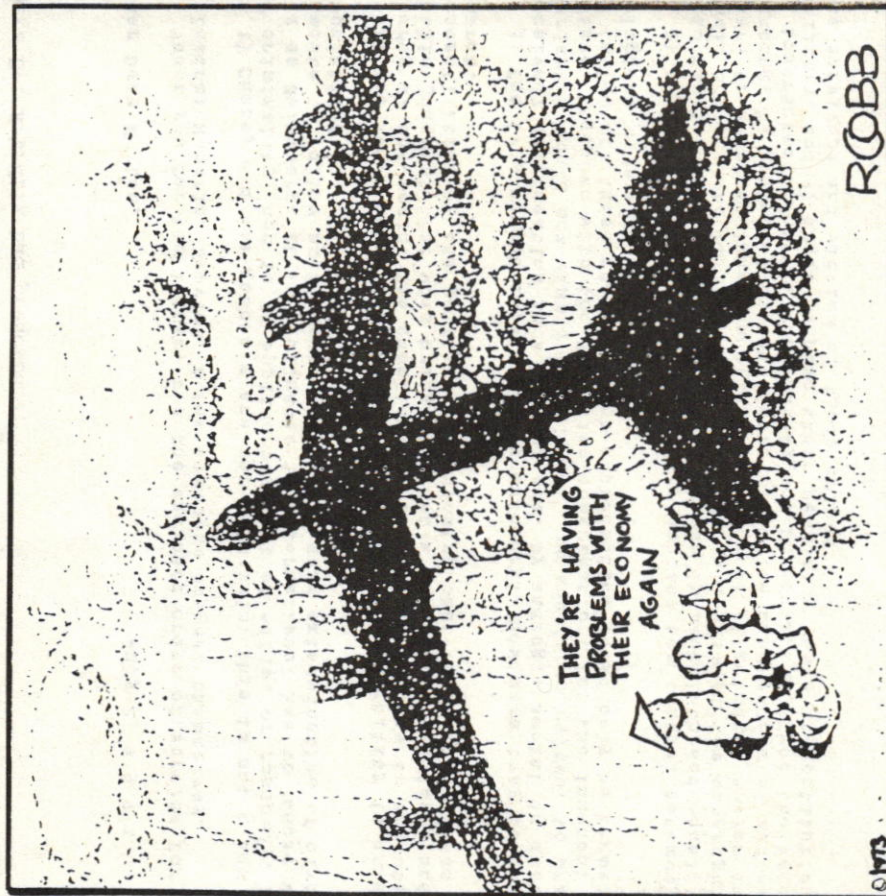
5) The above is understood in sum, as the sternly promulgated public conditions for the eventual, provisory restoration of delinquents and sinners, to full membership in Christ's church.

6) Refusal of the above conditions would be tranquilly received by the church authorities, who would thereupon simply convoke the ceremony of mourning without the above prelude at the portal. And the world, and the generals, and the people would know beyond doubt; we have a church to cope with.

In a world of 'exponentially increasing complexity' (your words), it seems to me that a few things ought to be clearly stated and enacted by the church; eg., mass murder is to be held accountable.

I too believe 'there should be a forum' where - (not your words) high crimes should be exposed and repented.

The church (and here I take issue with you) is hardly to be thought of



On the 5th February 1991, eight B-52 bombers arrived at USAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, England. Within a short time they commenced bombing raids on Iraq. A total of sixty missions were flown by these aircraft and 1158 tons of explosives were dropped.

During the Gulf War the United States and its allies unleashed the equivalent of five Hiroshimas upon Iraq. B-52 bombers unleashed 29% of that explosive power. Conservative estimates by Greenpeace suggest the following death tolls: between 5000 and 15000 Iraqi civilians and over 100,000 Iraqi troops during the war, 20,000 Kurds and Shias during the Civil War, between 15000 and 30,000 Kurds and Shias during the refugee movements and over 100,000 Iraqi civilians since the war due to disease, lack of medication and malnutrition - the latter deaths being additional to usual mortality rates.

On March 11th the United Nations Security Council once again threatened war against the people of Iraq. In the early hours of March 12th we entered USAF Fairford in Gloucestershire to make known our opposition to this threat and all western threats against the "Third World", to name accurately the B-52 bombers therein: mass murder machines.

This pamphlet is a record of that action so far - the process of action, communication, gathering support, court case and reflection. As yet, we haven't been to prison for non-payment of the fines and costs, so the process is still incomplete. When we do so, we will be able to add further reflections.

The material within is a mixture - of press releases, leaflets, drafts of speeches, letters, photos. We offer this compilation as a thank you to all those of you who supported us - in thought, letter, conversation, cheque, court presence. You were invaluable. Thank you.

We also happily hope that this pamphlet will incite and encourage you, and others, to take further nonviolent direct action against the war machine.

If you would like to be on a telephone tree for when any of us go to prison (so you can send a postcard or whatever), please get in touch. Also, if you'd like to offer us any financial support, please do so (cheques and postal orders payable to "STOP THE WAR MACHINE"). Any surplus (to the printing and distribution costs of this pamphlet) will go towards supporting further nonviolent direct action.

Emma, Chris, Stephen, STOP THE WAR MACHINE, c/o 24 St. Michael's Avenue, NORTHAMPTON NN1 4NH

STATEMENT

Today, Thursday March 12th 1992, we come to USAF Fairford to remember the effects of war and to resist some of war's causes.

* We remember all the victims of B-52 bombing raids throughout the years; we remember those whose lives were decimated and devastated in last year's Gulf war; we remember those in Iraq who continue this day to suffer and die.

* We resist our own temptations to silence, obedience or inactivity; we resist the criminal irresponsibility of the police, guards and service people at USAF Fairford who made and make wars possible; we resist the very weapons of war; we resist all preparations for future wars against the people of the "Third World".

* We come in the hope that ordinary people can make a difference: that we are all capable of non-cooperating with violence and injustice; that we are all capable of living less obedient and more loving lives.

* We come in solidarity with friends imprisoned for resisting the mass murder that is war; in loving solidarity with Ciaran O'Reilly, Moana Cole, Sue Frankel-Streit and Bill Frankel-Streit - currently serving one year in US prisons for their disarmament of a B-52 bomber on the 1st of January last year

We note that being human entails some basic responsibilities to our fellow human beings - that dropping bombs from high, onto people whose faces you will never see, is no way to express or celebrate our wonderful and diverse humanity.

You can jail the resisters, but not the resistance!

Emma Westwood

Chris Cole

Stephen Hancock

CHRIS COLE

Stephen Hancock



"Your first court appearance will be April 23rd, Easter Week. It's a great time to witness to Resurrection politics. I remember Dan Berrigan referring to the resurrection as an illegal event because Jesus disobeyed Pilate's orders that the tomb remain sealed. In other words he was supposed to stay dead! I don't expect anything will be different with all of you. You're all supposed to stay dead, quiet, silent in the midst of what the Imperial Pilate (U.S.) and its lackey, Herod's (England) destruction and killing throughout the world. But for those of us who have eyes to see and ears to hear: BRAVO, Alleluia! (a little early, since it's still Lent)." Bill

We're happy to say that all four above are now released from prison, having served roughly a year for their B-52 disarmament action. If you're into writing to peace prisoners, get in touch with War Resisters International (55 Daves St., LONDON SE17) who bring out an international list for December 1st - International Prisoners for Peace day.

As well as receiving supportive letters, we also received news of what other people were up to. Below is a letter that Dan Berrigan, from the States, recently mailed to the Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral in New York (He had welcomed Cheney and the two generals to a "service of mourning" - they even stood in the same pulpit where Dr. M.L.King had preached.):

Dear Dean Norton,

July 2, 1991

Thank you for the letter, and the enclosed order of service for the Cathedral Memorial Service. A few comments suggest themselves.

1) Cheney and the generals are war criminals. This is not a new category of criminality, nor is it applied here out of odium, or randomly. It is as old as Nuremberg. It is applicable in international law to "those who execute or follow such orders as lead to mass extermination of civilian populations."

2) The above vainglorious trio evades all accountability in criminal courts of the world. The question for the church is, how to execute a public judgment that will bring at least a measure of amendment and reconciliation of the guilty - presupposing that these seek access to the church.

3) The trio sought access to the cathedral. How were they to be received? The question is a serious one. By analogy, serial or mass murderers would not simply be welcomed, no questions raised, to pray and grieve, together with the Christian congregation, for the innocent victims of (a few of) those present. Such a proceeding could only be termed a religious cover-up.

4) I propose that in accord with an ancient penitential ceremony, the trio should have been instructed to appear in sackcloth and ashes. They would be received outside the portal, in full view of the congregation, there to be a) assigned indefinite penance of pilgrimage, prayer and fasting, b) sentenced to indefinite exclusion from sacrament and sanctuary c) instructed to resign immediately and in perpetuum, from the heinous military, and d) urged to pass their remaining years in restitution of the survivors and victims of their crimes.

We squeeze through a gap in a fence by the road and find ourselves in a large, recently ploughed, field. Its freezing and blowing a real gale. I stop and take out my raincoat from my rucksack, to put over my jacket for extra warmth. We have a joint hug and walk along the edge of the field in the direction of the base.

We hop over another fence and can make out a tower with a red light on, presumably part of the base. Stephen suggests we hold hands as we walk and we do for a while but I feel uncomfortable and let go. Feel a little guilty. It's very dark and hard to walk over the ploughed ground. We talk in whispers. The field rises, and as we reach the crest we can see the base more clearly. We stand behind a shed and suddenly I realize that its full of cows (or are they sheep?).

We've reached a sort of farm or outbuildings. A little path runs down to a crossroads. On the other side of the crossroads is the base - USAF Fairford. We've arrived. So far, so good. We all walk calmly down the path, cross the road and crouch by the fence.

Whilst Emma cuts a hole in the fence for our entry, I spray a peace sign on a 'keep out' sign. We crawl through the hole. I'm nervous, excited and stuck! My rucksack gets caught and I have to be pushed-pulled through. We have already agreed that we won't run but walk at all times. We walk along the fence and come to what appears to be the sports area of the base. We come to a road and it's my turn to cut the fence. I cross the road and cut the fence on the other side. A car comes along and I lie face down in the mud. It doesn't stop so presumably they didn't see us. We carry on. Again a car comes along. Have we been spotted? We lie face down on the ground. The car goes towards the hangar that we are aiming for and stops. Have they seen us? We decide to lie still for a while, hoping that they haven't. After about five minutes we decide they haven't seen us but maybe they are changing shifts or something.

We proceed to the hangar but gradually realize there is another fence. Stephen's turn. We go through the fence and hide behind the building. A vehicle arrives and waits. It appears that it is a shift change. We wait and wait. I spray the wall 'NO WAR', Emma gets the banner out and Stephen puts one of our statements into a crack in the wall. We wait and wait. I get more and more impatient. "Have a little patience," say Stephen and Emma. "I'm trying," says Chris. Eventually the truck/bus leaves and we walk out from behind the hangar and immediately realize the not only is the plane not a B-52, but it doesn't even look like a military aircraft. It is some sort of civil plane press-ganged into transporting officers we guess. With Katya Komisaruk's words "It's all part of the military machine," ringing in my ears, I am willing to put this plane out of action. Emma and Stephen calm me down and we move back to our 'safe' position behind the hangar. I say I am happy to go ahead on this plane but if the others want to keep on looking for the B-52s, I'll go with that. Stephen suggests we retrace our steps out of the base and go around to the other side (where we now suspect the B-52s will be). Emma suggests that since we're all ready half way across the base we continue

War Crimes of the U.S. in Iraq

NEW BOOK
Just released

By Ramsey Clark and others

A new book with evidence, eyewitness testimony and graphic photos from hearings in 30 cities in the U.S. and 19 countries around the world on how the U.S. planned, prepared and conducted a war that:

- killed up to 300,000 Iraqis
- bombed a modern country back to pre-industrial times
- tripled Iraq's infant mortality
- used barbaric and illegal weapons
- is continued by an embargo causing hundreds more deaths each day.

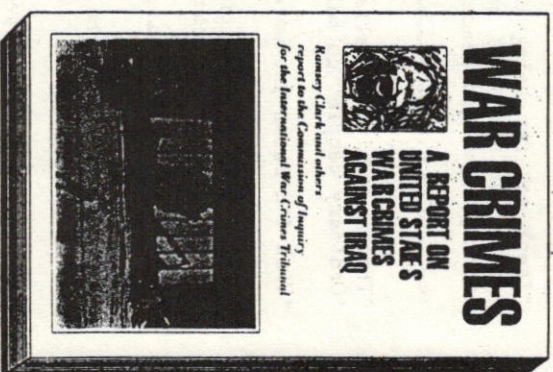
This book presents complete documentation of the effect of the war on the civilian population of Iraq and sets forth a 19-point indictment of U.S. leaders, including Bush, Schwarzkopf, Quayle, Powell, Cheney, and others, for war crimes, crimes against peace, and crimes against humanity. Included are extracts from international laws and conventions the U.S. violated. It is fully indexed. 275 pages.

- Eyewitness testimony and expert analysis of the war
- The history of U.S.-Iraq relations
- The refusal of the Bush administration to negotiate
- The conduct of the war itself in the light of international laws.

- Selections from:
- Ramsey Clark
 - Dr. Nawal El Saadawi
 - Tony Benn, British MP
 - Rep. Henry Gonzalez
 - Gulf Peace Team member
 - E. Faye Williams
 - William Kunstler
 - Others

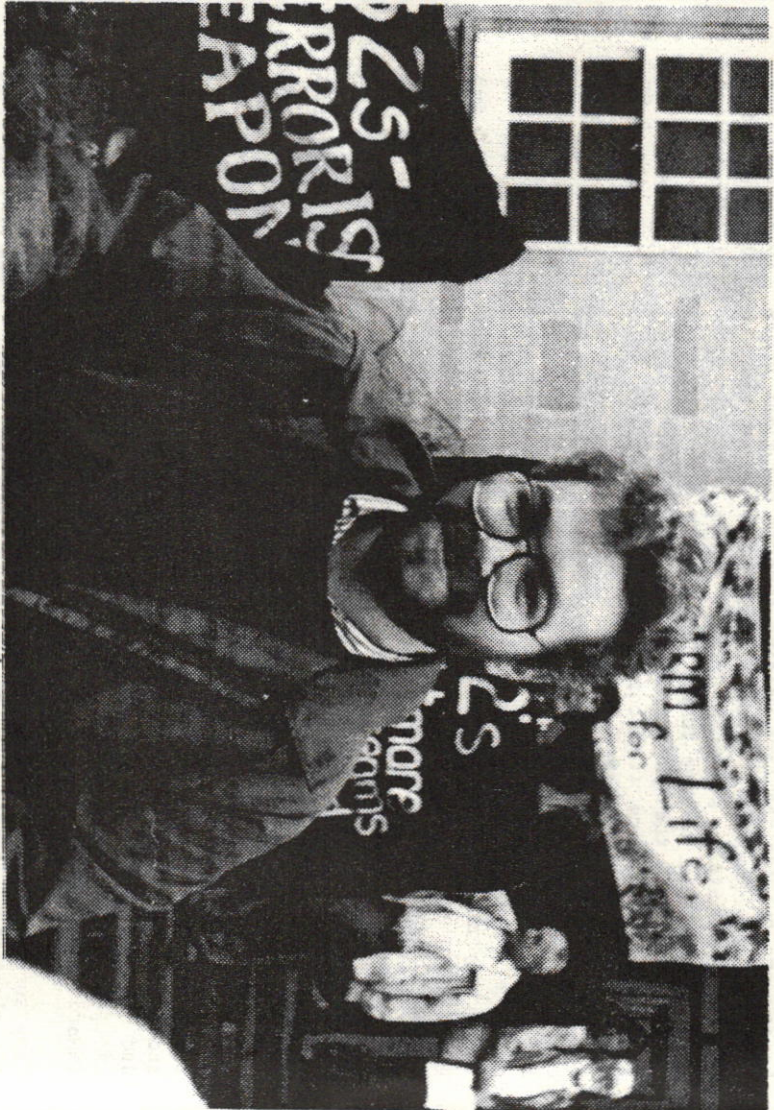
Published by Maitsonneuve Press and available from:

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL
36 E. 12th S., 6th fl., NY NY 10003 (212) 254-5385 **U.S.A**
(\$12.95 per copy plus \$2.00 shipping; bulk rates available.)



Immediately: "They've sprayed it, the fuckers". I kneel and say some silent prayers. The pilot is running around: "Why my plane you fuckers". He is told to calm down. Suddenly a security guy turns up. He orders me to get up and move away from the plane. He is obviously very angry. When I refuse he grabs me and drags me about 6 yards. He puts me on my front and yanks my arms around and handcuffs me. "Be cool, take it easy," I tell him. He's very pissed off. He goes to Emma and does the same: pulls her a few yards and then handcuffs her. And again to Stephen. We're left there for several minutes. Then the MOD police arrive. I manage to sit up. A MOD cop comes over and says (I think) that I'm under arrest. I immediately complain about being handcuffed and ask him to get the U.S. security guy's name. He goes over to the security guy. I yell at him that I want to know his name. He covers the name on his uniform. I ask the MOD cop to take off the cuffs. He tells the security guard to release us. I am then walked to an MOD van. Emma is carried to a different van. Stephen is carried into my one. Then they take Stephen and I out of our MOD van and into Emma's. We drive off the base and to Cirencester police station.

Chris Cole
on-the-spot-DIY-reporter ("Our Man in A Van")



Reflections

Early March, the U.S. is threatening Iraq

Chris and Stephen tell me that B-52s are back at Fairford

I have a sickening feeling that it's all going to happen again.

Think about the people in Iraq many already homeless, injured, disorientated, trembling at the thought of the bombers return,

know I want to do something to expose these monsters

want the people who fly, maintain and guard the planes to think about what they are really doing.

Decide to tie a banner to the plane, but what to say?

walk home slowly, imagine living in Iraq, injured and dying around me,

watching a B-52 grow from a dot on the horizon to a dark outline above and the terror I would feel.

Then I know what to paint.

Did anyone read it?

Did anyone hear and understand?

I don't know, but I do know that I can hear

I can hear the children screaming, the mothers sobbing

and there is nothing I can do to stop hearing

But I feel hopelessly inadequate and lonely because our painting wasn't part of a series of escalating actions. Where are you all? We don't have to wait for a crisis, these bases can be used at any time to unleash nightmares on thousands. If just one person reading this goes out and paints or hammers, then maybe someone hears about what they did and.....

But if no-one does what then?

Meanwhile Iraq is threatened again.

Emma

Lastly, the memory of the court-case sometimes rings an embarrassing tingle inside of me: I can't quite pinpoint it, but it's something to do with baring my soul to a room half-full of strangers and then feeling a bit of a fool for having done so. What did it achieve? Are they really going to throw off their uniforms and years of training at the openness of our communication? Also, a sort of unease, unfamiliarity with my own hopes and fears, so often hidden away so well.

Quite what I learned from these experiences of vulnerability, I don't know. Maybe: I lived through it all. This gives me some new confidence to say again to myself and others: you'll probably live through it all, and might even grow. Of course, we might also get injured or even not live through it all (I have in mind at the moment those people setting off to ex-Yugoslavia for a peace walk).

Between such times and feelings of vulnerability, I also have abiding feelings of warmth and support - it's much more fun being politically and personally vulnerable together.

Maybe, one day, we'll be able to dismantle these machines and bases in massive, jubilant numbers. In the meantime, it seems like small-group practice time. May you be fortunate enough to practice with Emmas and Chrises.

Stephen



B-52 BOMB-BAY DOORS PAINTED IRAQI DEAD AND DYING REMEMBERED FUTURE WARS AGAINST THE "THIRD WORLD" RESISTED

In the early hours of Thursday March 12th Emma Westwood, Chris Cole and Stephen Hancock entered USAF Fairford in Gloucestershire. They spent two hours walking several miles around the base in a wild wind, during which time several buildings were painted with the following phrases:

CHILDREN ARE STILL DYING IN IRAQ

STOP THE WAR MACHINE

LOVE NOT WAR

They then exited the base to take a short-cut through an adjacent field and re-entered near to six USAF B-52 bombers. They walked past several USAF service people and spent ten minutes at one of the warplanes. Chris painted the bomb-bay doors:

MASS MURDER MACHINE

NO MORE BOMBING

and the nose of the plane: BLUNT INSTRUMENT

FLYING GAS CHAMBER

Emma tied a banner to the bomb-bay doors which read:

B-52's - THE NIGHTMARE SCREAMS OF THE INJURED AND DYING

Emma and Stephen were in the process of trying to occupy the plane when a van-load of USAF men arrived. The three were surrounded. Chris knelt in prayer and Emma lay down whilst Stephen put on a white death mask, told the surrounding USAF men that he represented those killed in war, and then symbolically died. An angry USAF man in turn knelt on all three peace activists and handcuffed them behind their backs, face down on the concrete.

When the Ministry of "Defence" police arrived the three were quickly released from their handcuffs, and arrested on suspicion of committing criminal damage. Stephen remained corpse-like and was carried into an awaiting van, in which he, Chris and Emma were taken to nearby Cirencester police station.

The police Inspector at Cirencester agreed to a Ministry of "Defence" police request to search Stephen's room in Northampton for lists of "other targeted installations" and "articles for use to cause damage." As a consequence, a community house in Northampton was burgled by five C.I.D. officers and several documents stolen. This unusual event could have been because of Stephen's previous involvement in a Ploughshares-disarmament action at USAF Upper Heyford and X.O."D". worries that another such action was planned - a concern that the present war-footing of the USAF might be hampered; that one of their warplanes might be distracted from its murderous purpose.

It was noted by some that the Inspector did not authorise a

search of nearby USAF Fairford for lists of "targeted installations" or equipment "for use to cause damage" despite the fact that B-52's flew from Fairford during the Gulf War, killed thousands of Iraqis and caused untold devastation and misery.

Emma, Chris and Stephen were interviewed by CID at Cirencester, during which time they remained silent. In the evening they were taken before magistrates and granted bail on the condition that they "not linger at the perimeter of any M.O." establishment within Gloucestershire, Wiltshire or Oxfordshire." Upon release they hugged and headed home.

All three have been charged with "criminal damage" to a B-52, a military building and the perimeter fence. They are bailed to appear before Cirencester Magistrates at 10.30am on Thursday 23rd April, when it is possible that they will be asked to plead and the mode of trial will be decided.

The B-52's are alleged to have been taking part in a two-week NATO exercise, but, in these times of thinly-veiled military threats, we may well see them once again flying off to murder and destroy the latest "enemies", as the United States, with Britain in loyal subservience, continues its war against the "Third World".

Emma, Chris and Stephen would appreciate support - letters, support through their trial and money to cover costs (cheques payable to STOP THE WAR MACHINE):

24 St. Michael's Avenue
NORTHAMPTON NN1 4JQ

them both deeply. The way we cut fences and walked patiently and lay down in fields and listened to one another and made decisions on that windy March night was a good experience: we worked well together. And in the time between action and court we carried on that good work - meeting, writing, mailing, role-playing, thinking, eating, sharing tasks and ideas. What had been quite a personal action for all three of us, rippled further than we'd imagined. It all felt like a wonderful bonus - letters from around the world, people encouraged, ships painted, funds for expenses, local media interest, and a good, supportive, attentive turn-out for the court case. I hadn't really thought of any of that - had just been thinking about B-52 bombers, the war, those still dying in Iraq, the terrorist threats of the U.S. and U.N.

On a political level, I don't know what we achieved. We grounded a few B-52 bombers for a few hours, communicated to a few USAF men and Mo"D" police, shared our action with aspects of the international peace community, caught the ears and eyes of perhaps a couple of million people through local press coverage...but what they all did with what they heard I haven't got much of a clue. As always, I tell myself that what we did was precious little: a little but precious. And remind myself that loving, conscientious disobedience is crucial if we're going to experience any radical changes in this wonderful, messed up world of ours. I'm not too sure if my powers of political analysis can, or want to, delve much deeper. Some hearts and minds were unsettled. Some hearts and minds were encouraged. Enough said.

On a personal level, I experienced a lot of vulnerability. Several things spring to mind.

Actually deciding to do the action was scary. I hate challenging authority or getting into trouble. I was feeling delicate at the time. I had internal and external voices that would have happily let me rest on dubious laurels for a long time to come. Yet I had a clear sense of connection with my sisters and brothers in Iraq. This sense of solidarity feels vital, and runs strongly counter to our media-manipulated world.

Lying down on the concrete of the base, nearby the painted bomber, with an angry USAF man kneeling on me and handcuffing my arms behind my back, I felt very vulnerable: vulnerable to human violence, vulnerable to being kicked in my face or in my balls, vulnerable to panic which would only hurt my handcuffed arms more, vulnerable to the cold of the wind and concrete. I breathed deeply and tried to meditate on it all. It was OK to say to myself: I am scared of getting hurt. It was good to sense panic but to live through it. It was a relief to have the handcuffs removed.

When the police, local and Ministry of "Defence", raided our community house in Northampton I felt really angry. Just underneath this thin surface was a mass of fear: how dare they be so invasive! how dare they try to be so intimidating! how dare they succeed at being so intimidating! It fed happily into a sense of paranoia I have, a fear of people "out there" who have it in for me, or at least, don't have my best interests in mind or at heart. It doesn't really help to know that actually there are people "out there" who would like to see us locked up, even if it's nothing personal on their parts. My sense of security feels significantly disturbed by their burglary.

relaying the events of that windy morning very powerful. Talking about my beliefs in a packed court was nerve-wracking (especially when you're constantly told that they're not relevant) but again, the support of Emma, Stephen and those who came to the trial enabled me to do it.

After the trial, we went back to where it had started, USAF Fairford, for a vigil and leafleting. The day ended perfectly with us all holding hands in a circle and singing in joy and love.

Chris Cole

[ed.note: Chris forgets to mention the pub in the evening. I am worried]

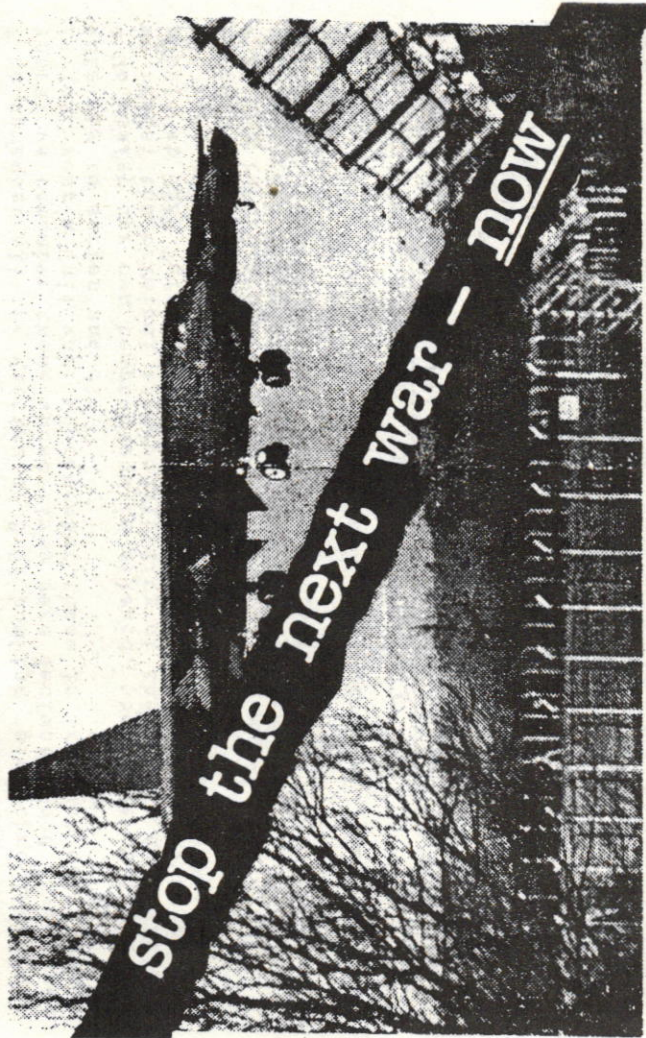


Stephen's reflections

During the Gulf War of last year I was in prison, and so watched the war from what felt like the sidelines, unable to express my feelings and horror and anger and opposition on the streets or at the bases. Instead, I confined myself to my writing, the odd conversation, a gnawing frustration, a quiet despair and a powerless anger. It was a difficult time. I guess for us all.

On Ash Wednesday of this year, the day the British government and military launched their first Trident death-boat, I was at an action at the Ministry of "Defence" in London. There, I heard from a friend that B-52s were coming back to Fairford at the end of the week for a fortnight. There and almost then, I resolved to myself to go to the base. To express, exorcise some of those feelings I had from the war and its aftermath, and especially to respect the dead.

It's a testimony to Emma's and Chris's friendship that we evolved our course of action at such short notice. I love them both dearly and trust



B-52 BOMBER PAINTED AND GROUNDED THREE ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

In the early hours of Thursday March 12th Emma Westwood, Chris Cole and Stephen Hancock entered USAF Fairford in Gloucestershire. They spent two hours inside the base during which time Chris painted various buildings with the messages: "CHILDREN ARE STILL DYING IN IRAQ", "STOP THE WAR MACHINE" and "LOVE NOT WAR".

They then made their way to a B-52 bomber. Chris painted the bomb-bay doors: "MASS MURDER MACHINE" and "NO MORE BOMBING" - and the nose of the plane: "BLUNT INSTRUMENT" and "FLYING GAS CHAMBER". Emma tied a banner to the bomb-bay doors which read:

"B-52's - THE NIGHTMARE SCREAMS OF THE INJURED AND DYING"
Upon being surrounded by USAF men, Stephen put on a white death mask and symbolically died.

Emma, Chris and Stephen have all been charged with "criminal damage" to several buildings and fences and a B-52 bomber.



Let's put the USAF, RAF and their criminal governments on trial instead!

**B-52's -
STATE TERRORIST
WEAPONS**

Their trial is at Cirencester Magistrates' court at 9.45am on

TUESDAY JULY 14th

Support welcome - PTO

* We remember all the victims of B-52 bombing raids throughout the years; we remember those whose lives were decimated and devastated in last year's Gulf war; we remember those in Iraq who continue this day to suffer and die.

* We resist our own temptations to silence, obedience or inactivity; we resist the criminal irresponsibility of the police and service people at USAF Fairford who made and make wars possible; we resist the very weapons of war; we resist all preparations for future wars against the people of the "Third World".

* We act in the hope that ordinary people can make a difference: that we are all capable of non-cooperating with violence and injustice; that we are all capable of living less obedient and more loving lives.

from Chris', Emma's and Stephen's Statement, March 12th 1992

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT

You can support Emma, Chris and Stephen in the following ways:

- * Write them letters of support
- * Come to court - 9.45am, Tuesday July 14th
- * Send a donation to help cover costs
- * Tell others about the action
- * Take part in nonviolent direct action (NVDA)

The following activities are being organised around the court case:

MONDAY 13th July: Camp and camp-fire at Colleymore Farm, Coleshill, Faringdon - come self-sufficient. Contact: Adam 0367 240508

(if you can't camp but need nearly accommodation, contact below)

TUESDAY 14th July:

7.30am - 9.00am: Vigil outside the main gate of Fairford. Bring banners and placards and transport.

9.15am: Gather in the car-park on London road, Cirencester (opposite Phoenix community centre) and then process, at 9.30am, to court.

9.45am: Court case begins. Either spectate or vigil outside. Bring banners and vegetarian or vegan food to share at lunch-time.

5.00pm - 6.00pm: Vigil outside main gate of Fairford.

Evening: Camp and camp-fire at Colleymore Farm (come self-sufficient) Sometime: Nonviolent direct action at USAF Fairford (or nearly base)

Please send below slip to: 24 St. Michael's Ave, NORTHAMPTON NN1 4JQ. Telephone 0604 33203

TICK BOXES AS APPROPRIATE:

I'm coming camping Monday night ☐ I'm coming camping Tuesday night ☐
 Please send map of camp-site, base and Cirencester ☐
 I am interested in taking part in NVDA ☐ Please send me ... copies of this leaflet ☐

I enclose £..... to help cover costs (cheques to "STOP THE WAR MACHINE".

Name
 Address

 Phone:

Printed on recycled paper

**NO MORE WARS
 AGAINST THE
 THIRD WORLD**

Indeed I have chosen to appear in this courtroom today in the hope of sharing that question with you. I have the slimmest of hopes that these power-distinctions of prosecution, judge and judged, could dissolve through sharing our common humanity. I have the widest of fantasies that we would all put this charade behind us and go to USAF Fairford and act with disarming faithfulness to our sisters and brothers dying around the world.

My actions of March 12th form one of my answers to that basic question: What are our responsibilities in a world at war?

What you as magistrates make of my actions - legally, morally, personally is obviously up to you.

From my point of view another guilty verdict would be tedious. I am tired of the cowardice and silence of those within the legal system on matters of war.

An acquittal wouldn't change the world. But it would make for a refreshing ripple through these murderous times.

Thank you for listening.

stop the next war - now



REFLECTIONS ON B-52 ACTION

I'm sitting here, having been ordered by Stephen to "write something about the B-52 action", finding it very difficult. What I do want to say about the whole thing is that I'm amazed and pleased at the amount of support that the three of us got. Right from the very beginning, people were willing to put themselves out to ensure that the action took place. Others took us in and gave us a bed for the night during the long court process, still more wrote to us in support. It is very encouraging (not to say helpful!) that there is a community of people who will assist and sustain nonviolent activism.

The trial was a very concrete example of the self imposed blindness of our society. The magistrates, prosecution and clerk all wanted to limit the trial to: 'Did you or did you not paint?'. What we painted and why we painted was deemed "irrelevant". I found getting into the witness box and

New firm will create jobs

A COMPUTER firm has been launched in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, which is expected to create 30 jobs in the next few years. The firm, Cirencester Communications, was launched yesterday by a group of local businessmen and is based in the town's new business centre.

The company, which has raised £2.5 million in venture capital, will develop and market computer systems for the public sector. It is expected to be one of the leading computer companies in the region.

The firm's first major contract is to develop a computer system for the Gloucestershire County Council. It is also expected to win contracts from other local authorities and private companies.

The firm's success is seen as a major boost for the local economy. It is expected to create a significant number of new jobs in the town and surrounding areas.

B52 daubed in attack, hearing told



A group of protesters including Stephen Hildes (third from right), Emma Westwood (second from right) and Chris Cook, daubed the B-52.

Peace demo for court trio

PEACE protesters staged a vigil outside RAF Fairford today before three campaigners accused of damaging property at the base went to court.

The three are alleged to have daubed the bomber with anti-war slogans and to have damaged the base's property. The trial is expected to last several days.

House raid

ANTIQUES worth £150,000 were seized from a house in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, by police yesterday. The raid was part of an investigation into the sale of stolen goods.

charged with the offence(s) shown below. You do not have to say anything unless you wish to do so but what you say will be given in evidence.

(IF JOINT CHARGE, INCLUDE FULL NAME OF CO-ACCUSED). (SPECIFY WHETHER ORIGINAL, ADDITIONAL OR AMENDED AGAINST EACH CHARGE)

JOINTLY CHARGED WITH EMMA WESTWOOD AND STEPHEN HANCOCK:

526 DAMAGE PROPERTY - £2,000 AND LESS

On Thursday 12 March 1992
At FAIRFORD, Glos

Contrary to Section 1(1) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971, I am often left asking: what are my responsibilities in a world at war?

demands to eliminate its capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction.
On March 12th 1992 USAF servicemen at USAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, England, discovered three unarmed peace protesters in the vicinity of a freshly-painted B-52 bomber. They were handed over to the British Ministry of Defence police.

They are the very basic facts, condensed considerably, that I think are relevant today.

I would like to note several things:

- * The Crown Prosecution Service has decided to go ahead with prosecuting the three unarmed peace protesters, and not any members of the heavily armed United States Air Force or its directing government, neither any members of the Royal Air Force or British government nor any members of the Ministry of Defence police.
- * Despite public knowledge about the role of B-52 bombers during the Gulf War, not one USAF service man appeared before Cirencester Magistrates Court charged with mass murder, nor were any members of the United States government extradited to stand trial.

There seems to be some sort of moral and legal imbalance operating within this court room.

There is something drastically wrong with our sense of morality, legality and humanity, when people are put on trial for painting weapons of mass murder whilst the courts mete out silence to the perpetrators of mass murder. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that there is something drastically wrong with our sense of reality.

During the Gulf War the United States and its allies unleashed the equivalent of five Hiroshimas upon Iraq. B-52 bombers unleashed 29% of that explosive power. Conservative estimates by Greenpeace suggest the following death tolls: between 5000 and 15000 Iraqi civilians and over 100,000 Iraqi troops during the war, 20,000 Iraqis during the Civil War, between 15000 and 30,000 Kurds and Shias during refugee movements and over 100,000 Iraqi civilians since the war due to disease, lack of medication and malnutrition - the latter deaths being additional to usual mortality rates.

In my opinion, B-52 bombers are instruments of mass destruction, mass murder and terror. I also see a pattern of United States intervention around the world designed to destroy perceived threats and to terrorise other nations and peoples by these well publicised example-making exercises. The reason for these interventions is power - political and economic power. I notice that the British government and has been one of the most loyal allies to the United States in these ventures of destruction.

These observations of mine have been formed reluctantly and painfully. Behind the facts and figures, behind the strategies and policies are human lives. The lives of my brothers and sisters in the human family.

I am often left asking: what are my responsibilities in a world at war?

Car park and facelift for village hall

GENEROUS parish councillors in Broadway have agreed to fund a car park at the village hall. The hall is a Grade II listed building and has been in need of a facelift for some time. The car park will provide a much-needed facility for the village.

The parish council has been granted a 10-year loan from the Public Works Loan Board which they will pay back at a rate of £3,000 a year. They are confident that by pulling in their belts during that time, the cost will not have to be passed on to parish community charges.

Clark to the council Mr Philip Field said: "The car park will be for the convenience of the village and will be completed by the middle of next month." And Mr Eric Maguire, chairman of the village hall committee, said: "We have done a lot of work on the hall for the past 18 years and have done so in 1992 with EC regulations to comply with."

The parish hall and other community buildings are owned by the Broadway Community Trust. The hall is a Grade II listed building and is a valuable asset to the village.

SALE

Our summer sale is now on with massive savings on all goods and famous brand name furniture, bedding and carpets

G PLAN - Up to 1/2 PRICE

STAG - Displays less 30%

VI-SPRING - 30% off our usual selling price

DUNLOPILLO - 35% off stock beds

149/

Begins

On Tuesday July 14th three peace activists - Emma Westwood, Chris Cole and Stephen Hancock - appeared at Cirencester Magistrates' Court and, after a six hour trial, were convicted on three counts of criminal damage: to the perimeter fence of USAF Fairford, to various buildings on the base and to a B-52 bomber.

On the morning of the trial, the three and fifteen supporters held an early morning vigil at the gates of USAF Fairford. They then drove to Cirencester and carried a variety of banners from the outskirts of the town to the court. Throughout the day there was keen local press coverage, including two local TV News crews, three local papers and two radio stations.

The morning was taken up with the prosecution case. This included reference to a police dog called Satan who had found two fence-holes and who had "sunk his teeth into a yellow spray-can lid" and the appearance of a USAF Captain, second in charge at the base, who admitted that he didn't know who controlled the base.

In the afternoon, Emma, Chris and Stephen gave clear and moving speeches in both the witness box and whilst summing up. The Clerk, Prosecution and Chairperson Magistrate ruled much of what they had to say as "irrelevant" or "inadmissible" - especially references to the destructive capability of B-52 bombers, the Gulf War, and legally phrased justifications of their actions. At one point, the Magistrates ruled out a common law "defence of necessity" on the grounds that the three hadn't proved that there was a threat of violence, having previously denied the three the opportunity to present such evidence (in the form of press cuttings and an appearance as expert witness by Milan Rai, editor of the "Gulf Crisis Weekly").

In his summing up, Stephen likened the prosecution and magistrates' behaviour to that of the people who refused to see that the Emperor was naked, and reminded them that they had all chosen to prosecute unarmed peace activists and to remain silent about the destructive and murderous role of the B-52 bombers.

All three were found guilty of all three charges and incurred fines and costs of £540 each. All three are intending not to pay. After court, the three returned to USAF Fairford for an evening vigil with supporters and then adjourned to a pub in a village called Coleshill.

USAF Fairford was used as a B-52 base during the Gulf War.

Ends

stop the war machine



This is the text Stephen prepared for his summing up speech. In the event, he changed some of it, missed some of it out and ad lib'd quite a bit:

Statement to Cirencester Magistrate's Court
Tuesday 14th July, 1992
by Stephen Hancock

In the early hours of March 12th I, along with my friends Emma and Chris, entered USAF Fairford. Between us, we cut holes in five fences, and painted the following messages on military buildings: NO BOMBING, STOP THE WAR MACHINE, CHILDREN ARE STILL DYING IN IRAQ AND LOVE NOT WAR. After two hours inside the base, we made it to a B-52 bomber. We tied a banner to the bomb-bay doors. The banner simply read:

B-52's - THE NIGHTMARE SCREAMS OF THE INJURED AND DYING
Chris painted the plane with the following words: NO MORE BOMBING, BLUNT INSTRUMENT, FLYING GAS CHAMBER and MASS MURDER MACHINE.

We were apprehended by USAF servicemen. I put on a white death mask and symbolically died. I was forced to lie face down on the concrete and was handcuffed behind my back. I was then arrested by Ministry of War police officers, held, interrogated, my home was searched, and I was charged with three counts of criminal damage.

They are the basic facts I have to tell the court about my behaviour.

The basic facts on the part of the United States Airforce, the Royal Air Force and the Ministry of "Defence" are a bit more difficult to summarise, but I will try:

- * USAF Fairford was used as a base for B-52 bombers during the Gulf war of 1991. These warplanes flew from England to Iraq, dropped their bombs and returned to England for more fuel, more bombs, and perhaps a rest for the tired aircrew.

- * Many many people were killed by the weapons launched by these, and other, B-52 bombers.

- * Many more people were injured.

- * Much destruction was done to the basic social infrastructure of Iraq.

- * To this day, people die daily in Iraq because of the war of 1991 - because of disease and malnutrition, because of destroyed infrastructure and continued sanctions.

- * On March 11th 1992 the United Nations Security Council, whose permanent members include the United States and United Kingdom, warned Iraq that it may face further military action unless it complied immediately with

that "it's the Americans at it again," and that it has nothing to do with us. We benefit from keeping the poor poor and from the looting of the so called third world - we are responsible. We have to be cured of the blindness that says it is 'nothing to do with us by naming the demons, the devils (do-ers of evil).

3 On the 5th Feb '91, 8 B-52's arrived at USAF Fairford and within a short time they commenced to fly to Iraq and bomb. A total of sixty missions were flown by these aircraft and 1158 tons of bombs were dropped.

4 On March 12th the threat of war against Iraq again raged, the B-52's were again lined up on the runway of USAF Fairford. The three of us resolved to act to try to prevent more blood shed.

5 As I have already said, I painted on the bomber to try to prevent a crime taking place - the murder of adults and children by bombs dropped from 1000s of feet. I also tried to communicate with the people involved by painting on buildings and the bomber. I was trying to open all our eyes to what was happening. I maintain that this is a reasonable thing to do. A legal thing to do.

6 You may view my actions as clumsy or even minimal in terms of achieving anything. That's fine. You may even decide that what I did was illegal under your law. So be it. I have decided that I choose to obey God's law that all life is sacred, rather than the current pervading law that says property and wealth is sacred and must be kept at any cost, and by all means necessary and that human life is cheap and expendable. But I hope the rot can stop here. That the law will recognize that war is a crime and that resisting it is good honest work.

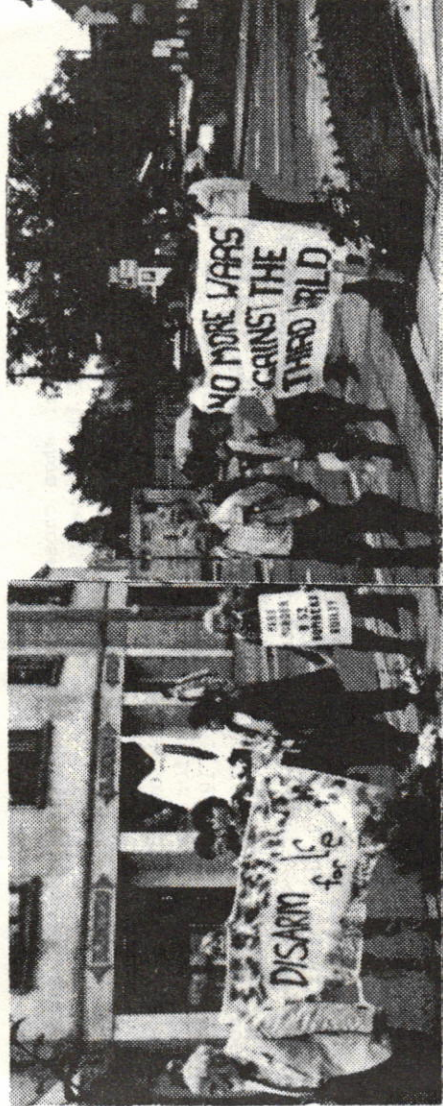
Chris Cole
Summing up speech, given at end of case
14th July 1992

Mitigation

By finding us guilty you have criminalised peacemaking and legalised the continued use of B-52 bombers. I consider that my acts were honest and open and that they were in no way criminal. I cannot co-operate with any sentence that you impose. I will not pay fine compensation or costs.

Chris Cole

(not very) mitigating speech, given after verdict and before sentencing
14th July 1992



Westwood, Hancock and Cole
v.

The British Legal Donkey
Cirencester 14th July 1992

Grappling in the past few weeks with a sense of impotency in a world where young people despairingly sprawl on the pavement drunk or breathe gnawingly into plastic bags and women weep on our television screens, trailing their possessions and their small children through clouds of the insane smoke of war, it was inspiring to be in court today as three people were tried for having dared to grasp one evil by the throat. On March 12th this year they painted peace slogans and hung banners on the B-52 bomber they found after two hours search across a rain and windswept airbase.

The prosecutor and the clerk of the court were determined it was to be a cut and dried inquiry with no political or moral facts being allowed to be voiced. The magistrate vainly tried to go along with this too but she and her two silent male colleagues actually allowed a great deal to be said, even if she and the clerk intervened frequently to protest "irrelevant".

The prosecutor called a number of witnesses: one M.O.D. policewoman, eight M.O.D. policemen, a man responsible for maintenance and the U.S. second-in-command of the base ... to prove what the defendants were not seeking to deny.

From about ten in the morning till five in the afternoon, with two adjournments to examine points of law introduced by the defendants and an hour's lunchbreak, the prosecutor went through the same scenario - asking for their testimony on unrusted holes in fences, paint spray cans the the colours thereof, "daubings", which Chris insisted he correctly call "writing", the weather at the time, the presence of "certain persons" and the manner of their arrest. "Satan" was even brought into the proceedings, (not literally alas) being a police dog, who had retrieved a spray can, yellow, and top thereof.

All of this could have been appallingly tedious except for the fact that Emma, Chris and Stephen were of course allowed to question this large

number of people, most of whom chose to remain in the court in a private capacity till the end of the proceedings.

As the day passed, the court room began to feel a very human place; where things were being said, listened to and reflected on. Emma, Stephen and Chris were seeking to show they had lawful excuse for what they had done, according to Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act of 1981 which states that any person may use reasonable force in order to prevent a crime. (It took some time before the Clerk, becoming increasingly irritated, stopped trying to conceal this section of the Act by covering it with an "etc.". When she was faced with this, she said, "lawful excuse is not in the context this gentleman is trying to raise.")

Emma's, Chris's and Stephen's questions to the witnesses were to lead them to express what their job entailed - "to save life, uphold the law and keep the peace," one said; to lead them to reflect on what a B-52 is, what it does and the consequences of that (particularly in the Gulf War); and to help them express their perception of these people who had done the action and their understanding of the words that had been written on the plane, banners and buildings.

Only one policeman admitted the possibility of "lawful excuse" but in answer to Chris's question, if it was his duty to prevent a crime, he said he could not "see how a B-52 bomber could commit a crime." This same man said that his acquaintance with the defendants had made him "more aware."

The messages the three had written were often given voluntarily by the witnesses. Since they weren't using their notebooks, this showed how the words had entered their consciousness, as they must have done to the people in court, being so often repeated in the questioning. Most frequently heard was "Blunt Instrument", "No More Bombing", "Children are still dying in Iraq." Most prominent was, "The nightmare screams of the injured and dying."

The three were allowed quite long statements of defence and later ample opportunity to address the magistrate, not without the usual interruptions. The following is a précis of them.

Emma's, given in a low tone and obvious distress in her bent body, expressing her horror as she stood under that bomber, with all it conjured up for her of dying children, visibly moved some of the former witnesses. She told the magistrate, "If we had just wanted to commit criminal damage, we could have done it anywhere." They had come to Fairford to try to protect people who were in imminent danger.

Chris said he knew B-52s had returned to Fairford. The U.S. had been making several threats to bomb Iraq again. He gave a detailed account of their action, including his thoughts and feelings and motivations. He was bringing before people on the base the truth of what they were involved in. He told the magistrate he strongly believed we have a moral duty to prevent such a crime. We are all responsible. Being good isn't enough. We have to act. He said as a Christian he had prayed in repentance for his part in the killing. He had acted honestly and in good faith. It was for him a reasonable thing to do. Acting to prevent war is not illegal.

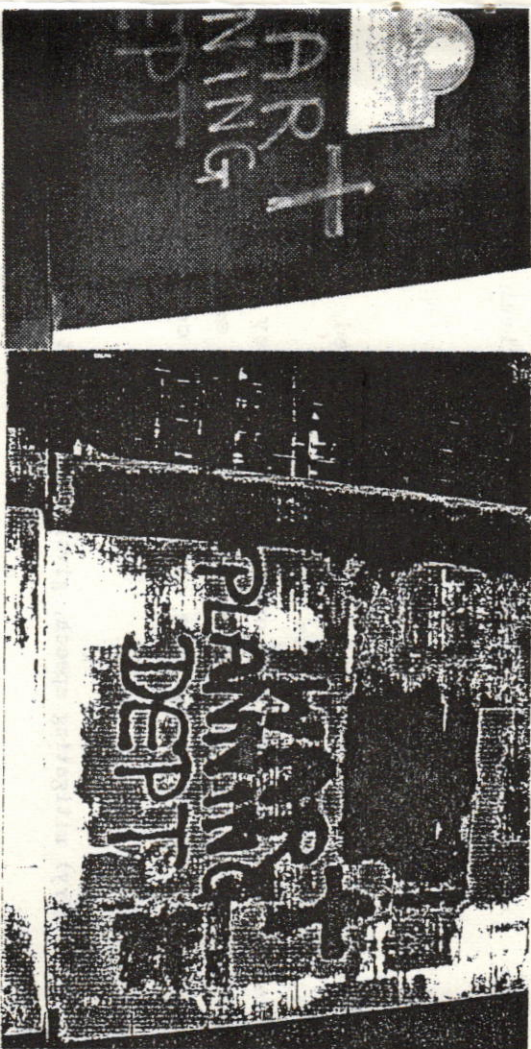
NO CASE TO ANSWER

I propose that the prosecution has failed to show that we did not have lawful excuse for our action. Indeed, we did. Lawful excuse has for some time now been taken to mean 'reasonable excuse' - for instance, in the case of someone kicking down the door of a house, thereby causing damage. If the purpose of the act of kicking down the door was to rescue a child from a burning house it would be regarded as very reasonable and therefore the action would not be unlawful. I argue that our actions were reasonable. We were there to prevent the killing of children and adults, just like the person rescuing a child from a burning house. The prosecution has deliberately steered away from the circumstances and has therefore not taken into account lawful excuse. I ask you remember that at this point I do not intend to prove that we had lawful excuse although if you wish me to go into it I am willing - it's just that prosecution has failed to prove that we did not have reasonable excuse (although I'm sure he will try now). Our actions were to prevent the US B-52's from bombing or practicing bombing.

Chris Cole
"No case to answer" speech, given after prosecution evidence
14th July 1992

Summing Up

- 1 We all have a moral (and legal) duty to act to prevent crime and to promote justice. Being good - keeping your nose clean - is not enough, we have to resist evil, resist injustice.
- 2 We are all responsible for what the military does. We cannot turn a blind eye and say "It's the government's responsibility," or "It's the military that's doing it," or



Does your job involve any legal training?

In English law?
Are you familiar with the Criminal Damage Act?
Are you familiar with the Genocide Act?
Are you familiar with the Geneva Conventions Act?
Why not?

Would you ever obey an illegal order?
If you knew for definite that a B-52 bomber was to be involved in a massive crime, would you do anything about it?
Do you think that the bombing carried out by B-52s during the Gulf War was morally justifiable?
Legally justifiable?
Do you think that killing someone is ever justifiable?

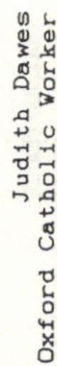
Questions about the Gulf War.

Questions about the US/UK relationship.
Does the US intervene militarily outside the territories of the United States?
Why?

Is Fairford a US base?

Do you think that going into military bases, painting on warplanes, giving leaflets to service people, is a good thing to do?
 Could you ever imagine giving up your job in the forces/police and joining the peace movement?
 Do you feel that your job helps keep the peace?

Have you had your anti-rabies injections?
Are you any relation to the Satan?
What's the most number of peace activists you've ever eaten for dinner?
Wouldn't you rather be looked after by some vegan anarcho-punk in a squat
in Stoke Newington and taken on the underground with a piece of old rope as
lead?



Stephen said that all three of them were committed to nonviolence. He continued, bases are secret and accepted. By going in, they were disrupting these two things. He was disrupting his own silence. In the Gulf War, for various reasons, he'd been impeded from doing anything. He needed to mourn what had gone on, to honour his sisters and brothers in Iraq. The U.N. Security Council had been sounding as if war was likely. He felt he was intervening in a murderous chain of events. His main focus had been to put on the white mask. He'd told the servicemen there that he was symbolically going to die and remain in that corpse-like state in memory of those who had died in Iraq. He reminded the court how troops who had freed the Belsen Concentration camp had made the people living nearby, who'd said they had known nothing about it, go in and look at it. Likewise people who were deliberately refusing to make contact between B-52s and what they did had been led to face the situation.

He said the people in court only wanted to concentrate on broken fences and spray-cans of paint and forget our wider humanity and the breaking of international law. He was ashamed how Britain is bowing to the U.S. economic and military terrorism.

They were found guilty on all three counts, fined £50 each plus £400 costs each, with 28 days to pay. They said they would not pay as to do so would seem to be agreeing to guilt, which they do not feel.

This case gives me hope. Their message was heard in the court and on television and in local papers. It certainly got under the skin of the clerk. Perhaps by her next case any new awareness will come out in a different way from anger. It is reported in "Catholic Peace Action" that a U.S. judge in a similar case, found four defendants in contempt because "they insisted on expressing political issues to explain their actions," and also found Philip Berrigan, a supporter, who refused to apologise for protesting in court against the judge's action, guilty of contempt, sentencing him to five years imprisonment. It is encouraging to hear in the same paper that a British court refused a request from the M.O.D. for compensation from Dan Martin, for having dug a grave outside the M.O.D. last November. (He and Chris Cole spent three weeks in prison over Christmas for that action.)

[illegible]



During one of our court role-playing sessions, we decided to draw up a list of possible questions we could put to prosecution witnesses. In court, we each had a copy of these questions. The clerk and magistrate disallowed the majority of them, but we managed to ask some:

NATURE OF JOB

What does your job entail?
Are you permanently based at USAF Fairford?
On March 12th were you aware of the presence of B-52 bombers at Fairford?
What was your role in relation to the B-52's? (- guarding, maintenance etc)
Were you stationed at Fairford during the Gulf War?
How long have you been in your job?
Would you describe what you do as worthwhile?
Do you have any qualms or doubts about what you do?

WHAT HAPPENED?

Can you remember any of the messages painted on the B-52?
Do you agree with these messages?
What messages were painted on the buildings?
Do you agree with these messages?
Did you feel threatened by our presence?
How did we behave towards you?
Did you understand why we were there?
Has your understanding of why we were there caused you to think about the nature of your work?
How long was the B-52 out of action?

Did a USAF serviceman kneel on us?
Were we handcuffed?
Is this legal?
Did you authorise a search of any of our homes?
Why?

THE B-52

What were B-52 warplanes doing at USAF Fairford on March 12th?
Who owns the B-52 bombers?
Who controls them?
Can you remember the political climate around March 12th?
Can you remember that the USA was making veiled military threats to Iraq?
How old are the B-52's?
Were they used in the Vietnam War?
Were they used in the Gulf War?
What is their military function?
Are the bombs they carry capable of killing people?
Would it be fair to say that thousands of people have been killed by bombs dropped and launched by B-52 bombers?
Does the B-52 bomber fulfill any non-lethal or non-destructive role?
So, it's main function is to drop bombs and launch missiles, and those bombs and missiles are designed to destroy things and people?
Were the B-52s on March 12th armed?
Were they capable of being armed at short notice?
Were they capable of being used for an actual bombing mission rather than practice?
Do you have any qualms about guarding/flying/maintaining/overseeing a machine designed for mass murder and destruction?
If a B-52 bomber was flying above you and you knew it was dropping bombs, would you feel frightened?
Do you think it's fair to say that the role of the B-52 is either to terrorise by threat, or to terrorise by destroying and killing?